

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER
Minutes
January 13, 2006
St. Anthony Hospital, Denver, CO
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Quote of the Month:

“Argument is rational discourse. It is not to be confused with quarreling. The object of argument is to get at the truth. The object of quarreling is to get at other people.”

D.Q. McInerny *Being Logical* Random House, NY 2004

1. Meeting began at 11:30 am and adjourned at 1:35 pm.
2. Members present: Burrows, Cherington, Collier, Flanders, Foley, Gahagan, R Gift, Y Gift, Gillespie, Lynch, McDonough, Mendez, Mullan, Nibbe, Poulton, Stewart, Studebaker, Wachtel, Wallace, Wells, Wermuth, Yarnell.
3. I brought the following articles (abstracted in part here):

- a. Hirschmann JV. Benjamin Franklin and medicine. *Ann Intern Med* 2005;143:830-834.

This article includes the following sections:

Founding of Pennsylvania Hospital
Electric Therapy and the Placebo Effect
Investigation of Mesmerism
Evaporative Cooling
Lead Poisoning
Invention of Bifocals

{Professor E. Philip Krider of the University of Arizona brought the above article to our attention.}

- b. Blumenthal R. When thunder roars – go indoors. *SAMJ* 2006;96.

“When lightning deaths are witnessed, the medico-legal examination is greatly facilitated. However, when such deaths are not witnessed the investigation can be extremely difficult autopsy guidelines are suggested.”

{Ryan Blumenthal sent this interesting paper this morning. Good timing for today’s LDC meeting.}

4. Greg Stewart announced that he will send an email giving the place and time of the next Lightning Safety Guideline meeting.
5. Phil Yarnell read from a current Weather calendar. It contained the details of a lightning strike survivor. There have been previous lightning-strike casualties on Mt. Princeton in Colorado. Greg Stewart reminded us that one tragedy is memorialized on a plaque on the mountain's summit.
6. Howard Wachtel invited LDC members to his home this Sunday. He and his wife are having a reception for members to meet visiting Professor Sintrik Ayrapetian.
7. Today's presentation was excellent. Howard Wachtel's topic: "Sub-visible, low thermal lightning may account for cases of 'unexplained' sudden cardiac death." Howard gave this presentation at the ICOLSE (International Conference on Lightning/Static Electricity) in Seattle, WA in September. The article is available on a CD, Charging Ahead in Lightning and Static Technologies, Final Proceeding ICOLSE 2005. Many members (including: Collier, Foley, Gillespie, McDonough, Mendez, Wermuth, Yarnell) engaged in discussion on this intriguing topic. Doyle Gillespie speculated that the piezoelectric effects on a person's wrist watch might provide evidence of lightning strike in a fatal, unwitnessed event.

Howard's presentation, the subsequent discussion, and Ryan's article above all dealt with the intriguing issues related to unwitnessed, cardiac fatalities from lightning strikes.
8. These minutes do not represent official positions of LDC or it's members. They simply reflect comments made at the meeting.
9. Next meeting: Friday, February 10, 2006 at 11:30 am in the Main Auditorium of St. Anthony Central Hospital.
Scheduled speaker: Richard Keen Topic: Clouds

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cherington, MD